

INTERNSHIP SYLLABUS

LIAISON OFFICER IN SUPPORT OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN BOSNIA INT-101

1. Internship Program Description

The Internship Program of the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies' Foreign Area Officer Program is designed to provide FAO students practical, first-hand experience to supplement and extend the resident training and instruction they receive. All FAO students will complete a minimum of one 3-month internship working in support of an U.S. agency in Eastern Europe or Eurasia. The internship program provides first-hand exposure to issues confronting Eastern Europe and Eurasian states; enhanced language and interpretation skill gained by realistic use of the language; deeper understanding of and appreciation for the host nation's contemporary culture, customs, and trends; and a unique training opportunity for FAO students in preparation for future assignments.

2. Liaison Officer Internship Description

- a. This internship supports the multi-national peacekeeping mission in Bosnia; providing a critical link between U.S. and Russian forces. As a liaison officer between the U.S. Army Division and the Russian Independent Airborne Brigade, the students ensure daily operations are understood and coordinated between the various Russian staff officers and their American counterparts. Russian language skills are used on a daily basis. Duties typically include facilitating conversations between senior Russian and American officers, escorting Russian and American VIP's, and coordinating daily staff actions. The students also conduct joint U.S. and Russian patrols and weapons storage site and mass gravesite inspections to ensure compliance with the Dayton Accords. This internship is a dangerous, real-world experience in a politically sensitive, ethnically and religiously charged region.
- b. This internship lasts for 120-days. FAO students normally live in the Russian officer barracks for half that time. Normally, work is conducted seven days per week, 16 hours per day.

3. Course objectives:

- a. At the end of this internship, FAO students should be familiar with U.S. and multi-national peacekeeping operations.
- b. Students should know Russian Army operations in a field environment. Students should be able to discuss, compare, and contrast similarities and differences between U.S. and Russian field operations and procedures.

- c. Students should be familiar with the political, cultural, and religious background of the various nationalities and ethnic groups in the Bosnia, Croatia, and Yugoslavia.
- d. Students should be able to explain the historical and political factors involved in the ongoing ethnic conflicts and territorial disputes and their impact on the mission of the multi-national peacekeeping mission and on the nations in the region.
- e. Students should increase their Russian language skills and knowledge of Russian culture.

4. Course Standards

- a. Students receive an official officer efficiency report (OER) for their internship in Bosnia. This report is prepared by the Chief-of-Staff (a colonel) of the U.S. Division. A center of mass rating on the OER received in Bosnia indicates successful accomplishment of course objectives a-d.
- b. Language skills are tested prior to and upon return from the internship.